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ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

VOL. III, NO. 5 MARCH 1948

ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CURRENT LIST OF MEDICAL LITERATURE

During the temporary absence of Miss Mildred Kuch, Editor of the Current List of Medical Literature, Miss Lela B. Marsh, of the Catalog Division, has been preparing the weekly issues.

Progress is being made on indexing the accumulated issues since July 1947 [AML NEWS February 1947]. It is hoped that the August index will soon be available.

INCREASED USE OF THE LIBRARY

A comparison of readers' requests supplied is indicative of the enormous increase in the work load existing throughout the Reference Division. In January 1947, 2,955 items were delivered in Library Hall and in January 1948, 6,190. An even greater increase is shown in the number of volumes shelved—January 1947, 12,954; January 1948, 44,241.

This would be gratifying were it not for the Library's continuing problems of inadequate staff, inadequate space, and partially cataloged collection.

WAR ZONE SETS OF THE INDEX-CATALOGUE

Replacement of the sets of the Index-Catalogue in the libraries of war-torn Europe remains an important task, although later reports tend to show that losses were not so disastrous as originally reported. About a year ago, Dr. Wickersheimer, Librarian of Strasbourg University, reported the complete destruction of four series of the Index-Catalogue; recently the Library heard that but one of the 56 volumes is missing. The Municipal Library of Verona, in the path of the invading armies, suffered bombardment but lost only five volumes.

Libraries have generously contributed spare volumes of the Index-Catalogue to the Army Medical Library for this purpose. The return of all volumes not at present in active use is again solicited.

WALTER REED EXHIBIT

A fourth exhibit in the series Famous Men of Army Medicine has for its subject the renowned bacteriologist and clinical pathologist Major Walter Reed.

Walter Reed was best known for his work as Chairman of the Yellow Fever Board which went to Cuba in June 1900 and in the following six months conclusively proved that yellow fever is transmitted by the mosquito.

He also acted as Chairman of a committee to study the causation and modes of propagation of typhoid fever in U. S. military camps during the Spanish War of 1898. These investigations marked a great advance in our knowledge of the spread of that formidable disease in armies. The report of the Board, in two large volumes, was a monumental work which will always be of value as a basis of future study in the epidemiology of typhoid fever.

Major Walter Reed was appointed Librarian of the Army Medical Library only a few days before his death in November 1902.

SERIALS

Statistics kept on the acquisition of serial titles which are new to the Library show increasing growth during the last four years:

1944	455
1945	1,113
1946	1,137
1947	2,043

Many of these are older titles acquired for the first time. This brings the Library's serial title holdings to an estimated 20,000.

The Library was receiving 4,257 currently published serials on the last count. Of these, 1,191 are purchased, 2,104 are received as gifts, and 962 are received in exchange for the Current List of Medical Literature.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS

The October 1947 Bulletin of the Medical Library Association contains contributions by Army Medical Library staff members. Helen G. Field contributed to the Librarians' Symposia devoted to

Problems in Medical Subject Headings. Thomas E. Keys, formerly with the History of Medicine Division, led the Symposium on Visual Aids and the Medical Library. Scott Adams gave a Report on the Library of Congress Mission and Colonel Harold Wellington Jones discussed Problems in the Construction of a Medical Dictionary. Two contributions by Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library were Visual Media and the Medical Library by Dr. Tom Jones, and The Historical Museum and the Medical Library by Dr. Howard Dittrick.

In the July 1947 issue of the Bulletin, two papers by Honorary Consultants are published: A Century of American Medicine by Dr. Morris Fishbein, and Why Light in the Library, or Comments on Illumination by Dr. Robert M. Stecher.

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, describes the objectives of the A. L. A. Division of Cataloging and Classification in the February 1948 issue of the ALA Bulletin.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, has had an active speaking schedule during the winter months. On January 22, she took part in a forum discussion held by the District of Columbia Library Association, subject "Educational Requirements for Librarianship", repeating her paper by invitation before the Professional Forum of the Library of Congress on February 12. On February 15, she spoke on Librarianship as a Career at a tea given by the Catholic University in the interest of professional recruitment. In addition, she represented the American Library Association at a three-day conference of professional women sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, 17-19 February.

Miss M. Irene Jones, Head of the Subject Cataloging Section of the Catalog Division, was the guest of Miss Mary Louise Marshall in New Orleans during the Mardi Gras; while there she visited the medical and public libraries and attended a morning session of the Society of University Surgeons.

The Library was represented at the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association, January 28 to February 1, by Mr. Scott Adams, Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, and Miss Marjorie E. Vivian.

CLEVELAND VISITOR

Dr. Elmer Belt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and Chairman of the Library Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Library, visited the History of Medicine Division recently while on a lecture tour in the East. Dr. Belt, a urologist who is also President of the California State Board of Public Health, was much interested in the Library's collection of rare books. He, himself, is the owner of a valuable library of Vinciana and frequently exhibits items from his collection of interest to both the artist and the medical man.

VISITORS FROM AFAR

Dr. L. Leshaner, Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Ziri Kral, Professor at Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Gustav Lejhanec, Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Julio Manuel Morales, Rector de la Universidad Nacional, Asunción, Paraguay.

Dr. Yung-En Kao, Central Hospital, Nanking, China.

Dr. S. S. Pillai, Clinical Pathologist, Public Health Laboratory, Trivandrum, S. India.

Dr. N. L. Bordia, Tuberculosis Officer, Indore City, India.

Dr. Florante Bocobo, University of the Philippines, Manila.

Dr. Jorge Boshell, Instituto Nacional de Higiene, Bogota, Columbia.

Dr. Pellervo Saarinen, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Father W. K. Glover, S.M., S.T.L., Sydney, Australia.

Father John Glyn, S.M., Lismore, Australia.

GERMAN THESES

The Bibliography of Scientific and Technical Reports, issued by the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, is making "package" listings of German medical theses which appeared during the war years. The Library services requests on film for the Office of Technical Services and is reproducing the original listings in order to build a card catalog for the German medical theses.

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